3 Policemen Killed In Line of Duty During Provo's History; 2 Murdered, 1 Accidental

By VAL HESS

Every day the police officers of this community, as well as law enforcement officers everywhere, take the chance of exchanging their lives for their paychecks.

Fortunately, in the community of Provo the officers seldom have to lay their lives on the line, but it can happen at any time.

In the long history of the Provo Police Department there have been three officers who have lost their lives while on the job and as a direct result of their police duties. Many others have faced difficult and dangerous situations, but have escaped with their lives.

Ultimate Dedication

But there are three, whose pictures have a place of honor on the wall of the Provo Police headquarters, who have proven their ultimate dedication to duty by offering their lives in the protection of the residents of the community.

Albert H. Bowen, the first chief of police in Provo, was the first victim when he was shot in the head by a drunken man he was attempting to ar-

1873. William Strong was killed on June 27, 1899, by a hobo he apparently had arrested while on special assignment to take care of a growing hobo prob-

The other officer Frank





PAID ULTIMATE PRICE - These three officers were killed in line of duty while serving on the Provo Police Force. Left, Albert H. Bowen, first chief of police of Provo, fatally shot by a man he was attempting to arrest for drunkenness. Center, William Strong, shot and killed by an unknown hobo who never was apprehended. Right, Frank J. Tucker, killed on duty by an accidental shot from his own gun.

one of the rooms at the Peter | Near the turn of the century Stubbs residence where he ap- Provo was having problems peared to be getting along all with a great number of tramps rest. This occurred on Oct. 15, right for a while. However, on who were coming into the Oct. 19, four days later, he died community on the railroad of the head injury.

man, Dominicus Carter, was fathers hired William Strong Avenue and 3rd South. He Tucker began to rise from his arrested because he was quot- as a special police officer to struck the officer just behind chair, when a pistol shot rang

The brother of the accused acute, that the Provo City Streets (presently University about to leave the office. Mr.

the tragedy, "Here comes an- William Strong had served officer tried to pull his own in the chair.



trains. The problem became so intersection of J. and Third two were talking and then were

Hundreds of hobos were arrested in all the surrounding communities but none were found who were thought to be responsible. A horse was stolen from western Provo shortly after the shooting and it is felt that it was the means of escape.

Early Settler

William Strong was one of the early settlers of Provo. He was born Jan. 25, 1840 in Kendall, Westmoreland, England and joined the LDS church when eight years of age. He moved with his father's family to Utah in 1855 and shortly after moved to Provo.

He was married and the father of children and the veteran officer was greatly respected. His funeral was one of the most well-attended and ornate in the early history of the community.

The third officer to be shot on duty in Provo was Frank J. Tucker, who had served for some time as city marshal and then was a police officer.

Mr. Tucker and a friend, George Ross, were sitting in the sheriff's office in the court house about 10:30 p.m. on June 16, 1904,

Shot Rings Out

According to Mr. Ross, the ed as telling his brother, after handle the hobos. the right ear and, as the dazed out. The officer then sank back

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shot, when he was 47 years of pulled out as they reached the the culprit was never found. it can happen anytime . . . officers who could take him to for nearly a year before being a revolver, which he suddenly ning west on Third Street. But may not seem very many. But He served as chief of police street, is that the tramp had plainly visible in the dust run- history of Provo. To some, it from tracks in the dust of the the escaping murderer were in line of duty in the 115-year Three officers shot and killed

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widow and four children. The well-known officer was

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Dance Hink

As the gun discharged, Mr.

thinking it was on probably fingering it absentmindedly, in his cost pocket and was now the gun dis-It was never definitely es-

Officer Tucker (who later dicated the bullet had entered policeman dead, The doctor in-A doctor was immediately

As dawn broke, the tracks of

One of the railroad employ- out in searching parties look- his pocket and dropped the gun moned by the fire bell, went Tucker pulled his hand from railroad yards to check an in- the town's men and boys, sumcers and then he left for the search for the killer. Many of safety. The killing started a mass

Mass Search

in the new especify when he who examined Mr. Strong, but that the officer had the pistol He had served only a week ground. He notified two doctors charged. It was finally decided special policeman lying on the tablished rushed to the scene to tind the

and had refired from active through the left breast and summoned but pronounced the poncentari, snoot min 10f 28 years as a peace officer revolver, snot officer shong

he was dead.

The theory, which was drawn

Autos For Sale

ees saw Mr. Strong talking to ing for him, Newspaper items on the floor.

coming train. before midnight by fellow offi-Mr. Strong was seen shortly

was killed, Eirst Week on Job

community. accepted in order to help his self) was not too far away and hit the heart. ing the special assignment, he was to be killed on duty him- just above the left hip and then mayor contacted him concernpolice work, But when the neart.

at 6 p.m. on Oct. 15, 1873, by settled in Provo in 1866, where Police Chief Bowen was shot serving a mission to Dixie, he walking up town. migrated to Utah in 1861. After the yards. Then the two began fingers of many of the search about 12 years and left police and city files and rec- LDS Church in 1848 and then ly after the train pulled into because of the nervous trigger died. He had lived in Provo in the area and still more from ty, New York. He joined the to the east of the station short- someone else didn't get shot only 37 years of age when he relatives of the trio still living July 22, 1826 in Genessee Coun- a tramp near the water tank indicate it was just lucky that Albert H. Bowen was born

the three officers, Some of the was himself shot in the head, rounding the deaths of each of returned after his capture, he unearthed the information sur- trying to escape or while being amount of research and have state prison and either while He was sentenced to the

u face trial for his crime and was returned to Provo to Carter was arrested in Nevada several weeks later Harrison was not to be found, However, stituted for the assassin but he A widespread search was in-Search Instituted

DITTO

dischanged Tucker, was shot by his own too."

The officer was carried into near the Provo River bridge. arton gaiog asset sew bas escape home, mounted a horse The assassin then made his in the left temple.

second time, hitting the officer the ground. Then he fired a fired, with the bullet hitting which Carter drew revolver and me young man to jail, upon end said that he would take Chief Bowen stepped forward

Second Shot Fatal

and Fourth West Streets. men near the corner of Center while in a small gathering of young man had been drinking indicated the age. Bystanders

ed that there weren't any police Harrison Carter, who had boast- he worked as a potter.

newspaper files, other from information comes from old and killed by officers. Berreat tenant, have done a Loveless, retired police lieu- shooting the chief of police. Provo chief of police, and Fred Jesse W. Evans, currently

Research Done

upwards toward the heart. above the hip, and then ranged struck him in the left side, just accidentally gun on June 16, 1904. His gun